Join Us at CRONES COUNSEL XIII:

SAN DIEGO

“Crone Vibrations”

BAHIA RESORT HOTEL
on beautiful Mission Bay, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 through
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005

Celebrate the Crone in the perfect place, the Bahia Resort in San Diego, at our thirteenth Crones Counsel. Spend three days connecting with other crones who share your wildwoman enthusiasm for life. Watch the magic happen!

Soulful storytelling, fabulous workshops, moving rituals, passionate celebrations, dancing and drumming around a bonfire on the beach under the full moon, and time to connect with other Crones heart to heart. Our theme this year is “Crone Vibrations” and our logo reflects this (watermark behind this article and on back page). Vibrations and the energy of the wave cycle are symbolic of the sacred spiral of life. The moon governs the tides and all phases of the feminine here on earth. The three birds represent Maiden, Mother, and Crone.

The Bahia Hotel Resort is located just steps from the Pacific Ocean. It is centrally located with the quaint shops of Mission Beach close-by. The airport is 10 to 15 minutes’ drive via cab or limo service.

The grounds are lovely with many amenities, including a pool and whirlpool, fitness center, tennis courts, and the Bahia Belle sternwheeler to cross the bay. What better place to spend a perfect October weekend? Register today at 800/576-4229 (800/233-8172 from Canada) or www.bahiahotel.com.

For those who want to arrive on Thursday, October 13, the same special rates ($109 single/double, $15 each additional person) at the Bahia will apply.

October is normally one of the nicest months of the year in San Diego. It is still the dry season with seldom a drop of rain. Temperatures are warm (not hot) during the day and cool (not cold) at night.

The San Diego circle, Women of Ancient Wisdom, is hosting this gathering and we’re having a lot of fun planning to make it special for each of you. “Feel our Crone vibrations calling you across the nation.” Join us in our beautiful city for a fantastic Crones Counsel.

San Diego …

California’s second largest city and the United States’ seventh, San Diego is known for its near-idyllic climate. There are 70 miles of pristine beaches and a dazzling array of world-class family attractions, including the Wild Animal Park, SeaWorld San Diego, and LEGOLAND California.

Balboa Park, the largest urban cultural park in the United States, features 15 museums, numerous art galleries, beautiful gardens, Tony Award-winning The Globe Theatres, and the world-famous San Diego Zoo. The region is also a breeding ground for the hottest new talents of culinary arts, who prepare award-winning meals in many of the region’s 6,400 eating establishments.

San Diego County also features 92 golf courses and a variety of exciting participatory and spectator sports, beachfront resorts and luxury spas, gaming, a rich military history, accessibility for travelers with disabilities and much more. For more information, go to www.sandiego.org. This website features transportation, restaurants, and local area attractions. In addition, check out the hotel at www.bahiahotel.com.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Expanding the Vision
by Jackie Gentry, President

In this last note to you as President of Crones Counsel, my first thought is to say THANK YOU to soooo many of our participants! You have been responsive, thoughtful, and constructive as you offered talents, suggestions, critiques, new ideas, and support for our organization. And a special thanks goes to our Board of Directors – what a fantastic group! Each member brings expertise, commitment, good humor, and integrity to the substantial work that is required to keep Crones Counsel operating. It is a pleasure to work with these women and to count them among my treasured friends.

Once again, we are recruiting new members for the Board of Directors. If you would like to be a candidate for the Crones Counsel Board, please let us know – follow the directions outlined in Mahtowin’s article on Page 7.

We are grateful for the vision that Shauna Adix and her colleagues brought to life as Crones Counsel back in 1993, and their subsequent establishment of our nonprofit status and an organizational structure to continue the work. In 2003 we talked of Expanding the Vision as we went east for the first time and sponsored a national gathering in Tennessee. Now we speak of Expanding the Vision in a new way: We are offering Crones Counsel memberships! Also we have a new logo and tag line to represent our organization (See Page 4).

Responding to a number of our participants who called for Crones Counsel to become a membership organization, our Board is making it happen! Beginning at our October 2005 national gathering in San Diego, we will accept your application and $35 annual dues to become a Charter Member of Crones Counsel! The dues fee for our honored elders who are 80 or older is $20. Please join! If you can’t be with us in San Diego, send your dues plus your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Crones Counsel, P.O. Box 485, Ekalaka, MT 59324. (See Sharon Hoery’s “Membership Update,” Page 3.)

As a member, each of us contributes to a significant social movement – the Crone movement – which will doggedly promote the well-being of older women. A membership operation will require additional administrative costs; nonetheless, as our numbers grow, it will provide financial resources for more Crones Counsel activities, including year-round services and information to our members. Our membership will consist of individuals; we are not establishing chapters or asking for dues from any local crone group. However, we will make a focused effort to stay in touch with and provide information on local crone groups around the nation. Beginning now, each issue of CroneTimes will feature a local group (See an example on Page 7), and we will begin to post more information about local groups on our website. Send us a description of your group!

In the fall, Anya Silverman, Secretary, and I will complete our terms of service on the Crones Counsel Board, leaving space for new individuals, new energy, and new ideas to enrich our operations. It truly has been a privilege to serve you and to work on behalf of Crones Counsel.

Honor/Remember Someone You Care About

AND SUPPORT CRONES COUNSEL AT THE SAME TIME

We are pleased to announce a new way to show someone that you care. You can now make a donation to CRONES COUNSEL: ★ In Honor of someone,  ★ In Memory of someone, ★ In Celebration of someone’s birthday, anniversary, retirement, special achievement, etc.

Your name and the name of the person you are honoring will be printed in the next issue of CroneTimes. Please limit your wording to one line.

Send your wording and donation to CRONES COUNSEL, INC., P.O. Box 485, Ekalaka, MT 59324

CRONES COUNSEL, INC. is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

CRONE CRAFTERS

We want you!

A large part of every Crones Counsel is the Vendors Space.

Here’s a great opportunity to share your magic with very receptive Crones who gladly support you.

For more information about being a Vendor at Crones Counsel XIII – San Diego, contact:

MARTA QUEST
hosc@midrivers.com • 406/775-6664

Who Are We?

CRONES COUNSEL INC. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and celebrating the lives of older women. We use the word Crone to refer to and reclaim the original meaning of the term: A Crone is an elder woman who embodies wisdom, one who embraces both the light and the dark sides of her life. At our national gatherings, we conduct workshops, exchange information, and enjoy singing, dancing, and drumming. As we listen to each other’s stories, we share laughter and tears, always honoring one another, especially the eldest in our midst. As a result, we are able to go out into the world with more power, knowledge, and energy for the paths that lie ahead.
She is Everywhere!
A new book “She is Everywhere! An anthology of writing in womanist/feminist spirituality” gathered by Lucia Chaivola Birnbaum, Ph.D. There are 42 essays, poems, and short stories plus 18 illustrations, including an essay on “The Metamorphosis of the Crone” by Crones Counsel member Anya Silverman.

It can be ordered from www.iuniverse.com, or through your local bookstore.
400 pages, $27.95

Our last issue of CroneTimes addressed the concept of Crones Counsel becoming a membership organization. Following is a recap of what has transpired since our last communication with you. This was, and is, a very important topic and was discussed at length during this Spring’s Crones Counsel Board Meeting. In several Town Meetings held at previous gatherings, the concept of CC becoming a membership organization was presented to the Board. As the Board and all those attending the Town Meetings realized, the gatherings are one part of CC, the other part is the functioning side of CC. This includes printing, website, postage, telephone/fax, travel (Spring Board Meeting) consultants/professional fees, clerical fees, etc. There is a financial responsibility to a hotel for the rooms/food/AV, and any other expenses incurred at each gathering. All the funds from registration have been used to pay for the gatherings, as well as other expenses. Crones Counsel has responsibilities twelve months of the year; with hopefully enough to seed the next gathering. This is a very tall order and has not been taken lightly by the Board.

You have supported Crones Counsel

The Outreach Fund has opened our hearts to those in the community in which the gatherings are held, and the Scholarship Fund has helped those who needed some assistance to attend a gathering. Please remember that CC is an all-volunteer organization that must be run very lean.

As we envisioned women counseling women, and looked into the future, the concept presented to the Board at the Town Meeting of becoming a membership organization made business sense. Ideally, membership could be the supporting piece that funds the website, postage, and thus allows local groups more latitude in planning their gatherings. Membership is the structure that holds the vessel so that we can dance in the magic of Crones Counsel each year.

Crones Counsel, Inc. will offer membership in October 2005 at the San Diego gathering. You do not need to become a member to attend any gathering! Membership for one year is $35. There will be different levels beyond this membership investment so that an individual can join and donate funds to CC. For those eighty and over membership is $20.

The Board is daring to dream that years from now women will be singing, dancing, and attending workshops. Our stories will be heard within circles of circles of those attending Crones Counsel. We work for the magic of CC. Become a Charter Member of Crones Counsel this October in San Diego. If you will not be attending the gathering in San Diego and would like to become a member, please contact Crones Counsel, P.O. Box 485, Ekalaka, MT 59324, or email cronescoun@midrivers.com for information.

I am looking forward to seeing you in San Diego!

DON’T LEAVE SAN DIEGO WITHOUT YOUR SUN VISOR

♦ You’ll wear it again and again
♦ Sand color to complement our CCXIII logo
♦ Double sandwich bill, pre-curved with 8 rows of stitching
♦ Self fabric backstrap Velcro

Your visor will be waiting for you in San Diego!

BUFFALO WOMAN’S Vision
A quarterly magazine for the wisdom of EVERYWOMAN to share her life-affirming stories of truth and courage.

For a sample copy, send $3.00 to:
BUFFALO WOMAN’S VISION
P.O. Box 261, Ekalaka, MT 59324
To subscribe, send $21/1 year (U.S. sub)

For more information, call or email:
406/775-6664 • bwv@midrivers.com
As you can see, Crones Counsel has finally been gifted with an official logo. The logo was submitted by Sue Chase who attended our gathering in Kingsport, Tennessee. There is a lot of detail and significance embodied in the logo, which Sue has described in her depiction of the creative process.

The circle represents the earth, moon, sun, and a mandala (a sacred circle or circle of life). The birds represent the dark and light sides of our lives — the raven and the dove, the yin and yang — both of which Crones embrace. The women represent the open, dancing, wild, wise women we all are. The purple color represents the wise, older woman — “When I am old, I shall wear purple.” The flames represent the bonfire around which wise women sing, drum, and dance at Crones Counsel gatherings, and fire represents birth, death, and renewal, which brings us back to the circle of life.

The logo design was chosen at the spring Board meeting because it represents the essence of Crones Counsel.

About the Artist

Sue’s main interests growing up were reading, drawing, and being outdoors (not as an athlete, more as a nature lover). Her mother taught her about the beauty of art, music, and the natural world. Her father encouraged her to read. She is still an avid reader. Sue has only taken a few drawing classes and her interest in graphic design has remained strong throughout the years. Sue became fascinated with mandalas about 12 years ago and studied several books about mandalas from around the world, as well as techniques of mandala design. From this and from her love of Crones Counsel and the women she has met there came the logo design.

Sue and her husband Bob live in central Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Mountains. They moved there from Long Island in 1988. Since 9/11 they have been involved with the Charlottesville Center for Peace and Justice in various capacities. Six years ago she retired from her job as a social worker and school counselor, which allowed her to pursue other interests such as beaded jewelry design, folk dancing, music, and traveling. Her five children and six grandchildren provide opportunities to travel to New York, California, Japan, and points in between.

Sue will be attending the gathering in San Diego this year, so you can all look forward to meeting her.

Wedgewood Manor Services

Reclaim your intellectual life!

READING MACHINE — DESKTOP AND HANDHELD

Grecia Gregory Luke

206 / 241-2911
FAX: 206 / 439-6764
E-MAIL: grecia19@comcast.net
Please Print Clearly:

NAME: ___________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: (Street, Apt., P.O. Box) ___________________________________________________________________________________________

(City, State, Zip) ______________________________________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE: (Home) ______________________ (Office) ______________________

EMAIL: ___________________________________ BIRTHDATE: ____________________________

We will communicate often by email, so if you have an email address, PLEASE include it.

We really need your birthday for our honoring of the Elders ceremony. We WON’T share it with anyone.

Is this your first time at a Crones Counsel gathering:   Yes   No

How did you hear about Crones Counsel? ______________________________________________

Special Needs? ____________________________________________________________________

Need a roommate?   Yes       No      Smoking/Nonsmoking room? Please circle

SCHOLARSHIPS

I WISH TO SUPPORT MY SISTER CRONES WITH A DONATION OF:

$25 __________ $15 __________ $10 __________ Other $ _________________________

OUTREACH FUND

These funds are given to assist a local group in the gathering area with their work with elders.

I WISH TO SUPPORT THE CRONES COUNSEL OUTREACH FUND WITH A DONATION OF: $ __________________

Please include with your registration check. Thank you.

Amount enclosed: $ __________________

Make checks payable to: CRONES COUNSEL, INC.

Mail this registration form and check to (no credit cards):
CRONES COUNSEL, INC., c/o Arlene Madsen, P.O. Box 135, Farley, MO 64028,
Phone: 816/330-4045, Email: asmadsen@earthlink.net

OR register on line at: www.CronesCounsel.org (credit cards accepted)

*** PLEASE SIGN AND DATE WAIVER OF LIABILITY ON REVERSE ***
*** Please sign and date the following waiver ***

Waiver: Anyone attending a Crones Counsel gathering must sign a waiver of liability.

LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

I have read the activity description and voluntarily enroll in the Crones Counsel gathering. I understand and realize activities involved in the program involve risks which may result in injury to me. I knowingly and voluntarily assume all such risk, which I may sustain in connection with the above program, including but not limited to injury sustained while traveling on highways and over rough terrain, forces of nature, falling, slipping, and any accident or illness, which may occur while I am enrolled in the program.

Furthermore, in consideration of the permission granted to me to participate in the above program, on behalf of myself, my heirs, legal representatives, I release and discharge Crones Counsel, Inc., and their officers, from liability for any injuries or property loss or damage I may sustain while participating in the above activity. I fully realize and accept the responsibility to myself and my companions to carry out all program activities according to Crones Counsel procedures and in a safe and prudent manner. This release does not apply to acts of gross negligence or wanton and reckless conduct.

I also agree I shall be responsible for any expenses incurred or damages suffered as a consequence of my personal injury or property loss or damage; that I shall carry adequate accident and health insurance for this purpose and I shall not hold Crones Counsel, Inc. responsible for such expenses.

__________________________  __________________________
Signature                     Date

Crones Counsel XIII — San Diego
WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
                         Street
                        City  State  Zip
E-Mail: ___________________________ Phone: ____________
Workshop Title: _______________________________________
Brief Description of Workshop: ____________________________

____________________________________________________
Room Needs: Size: _______________________________________
                         Maximum Number of Participants: ______________
                         Arrangement: ________________________________
                         Audio Visual Equipment: ________________________
Other: _________________________________________________

Return completed form to: Marian Karpisek, 3247 E. Fox Run Way, San Diego, CA 92111-7747
or E-Mail: kargypsies@aol.com
CALL FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Do you have knowledge, insights, or creative activities that you are willing to share with your crone sisters? The Crones Counsel XIII Planning Committee is seeking women willing to gift their knowledge and expertise to their sister crones by presenting a workshop during the Counsel. Workshops are one of the most valued parts of the Counsel and always include diverse appeal.

There will be up to 4 workshop sessions held during the Counsel with up to 7 workshops offered per session. Each workshop will be 90 minutes long with flexible form and format. Presenters must be registered participants at the Counsel.

A form to submit your proposal for a workshop is available in this newsletter on Page 6, on the website, or e-mail Marian Karpisek at kargypsies@aol.com for more information.

A committee will review the proposals and select the workshop presentations. Selection will focus on providing a wide range of topics, space availability, and completeness of proposals submitted. Deadline for applications is July 15, 2005.

All applicants will be advised no later than August 31, 2005, of the status of their workshop presentation.

Women of Ancient Wisdom (W.O.A.W.) – San Diego

This monthly crone circle begun in 1995 to: support and honor women of age; be a conscious spiritual group directing crone energy to honor our unique gifts; heal ourselves and this planet; promote crone circles in our community; develop crone leadership and mentoring.

We gather once a month to discuss matters of our inner lives, sharing an energy that leads to understanding, civility, and a feeling of community promoting the healing of humankind. We meet to gift one another with our insights, to celebrate the serenity of aging and acquired wisdom, to bring one another our questions, and to contemplate the joy and mystery of life. This is a place to dialogue, to find our voices and develop a language of inquiry in a forum where we feel safe to share heart to heart, to actualize and realize our higher selves.

In addition to providing the leadership for this year’s Crones Counsel in San Diego, this amazing dedicated, low-key group has been providing a continuing space to meet and has witnessed for the truth and older women for ten years.

Since its inception, more than two hundred women have sat in this circle, told their stories, and have worked on and participated in such various programs as the first San Diego Crones Counsel in 1997 and our 1999 community project: San Diego Women of Ancient Wisdom’s Peace Pole.

For more information, contact Ginger Child, 760/529-9360, gingcrone@laughingsisters.com

Crone Counsel Board Vacancies

by Mahtowín

The Crones Counsel Board will be filling three board positions before the October gathering in San Diego. If you are interested in becoming a Board member, you may contact Jean Stein, 4202 Fourth Ave., Apt. 308, San Diego, CA. 92103, jstein4444@aol.com for an application form. Applications must be received by September 1, 2005.

Criteria for board members are:

1. Must be 50 years of age
2. Have attended at least two Crones Counsel gatherings
3. Must be willing and able to attend both the Spring Board meeting and the Board meeting at the fall gathering
4. Must have e-mail and be able to open attachments for all board communications
5. Should have prior involvement and commitment to women and Crones work
6. Should have the ability to contribute to group harmony
7. Term commitment is no more than five years
8. Must be available at all times during the gatherings
9. Active participation in Board e-mail decision making

Yeslife: Bead and Crochet Art

- Pouches, pendants, earrings
- Totem dolls
- Talking sticks — and more
- Beading and crochet classes by appointment

Seattle, WA 98188
206-244-4264
yeslife@earthlink.net
http://home.earthlink.net/~yeslife/

Morning Dove Design

Goddess' with an Attitude
Unique wearable wonders.

Patricia Weller
6703 S. River Rd.
Olathe, CO 81425
970-323-5275
www.MorningDoveDesign.com
DINNER WITH A LOCAL CRONE

Are you arriving in San Diego the day before Crones Counsel begins? Join local crones for a no-host dinner at one of San Diego’s wide array of restaurants on Thursday evening. San Diego crones will select their favorite restaurants to share with you and will drive you there and back. This will be an informal opportunity to get together in small groups and enjoy good food and crone camaraderie. You may sign up on Thursday afternoon at the Hospitality Suite (directions to the suite available in the hotel lobby.) Sign-up before 5:00 is necessary in order to finalize arrangements with local crones and restaurants. We hope you will join us.

WHERE WILL CRONES COUNSEL BE IN 2007-2008?

Where will the stories continue? Songs to be sung, dances to be created, drums beating to a crone’s heartbeat, and sharing of wisdom that is within us all.

Contact a Board member to inquire.